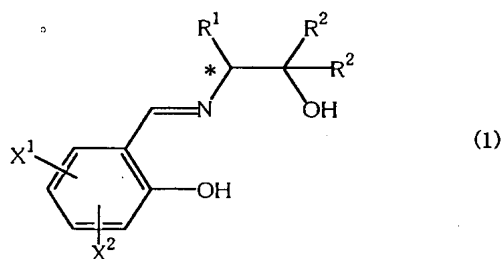


ABSTRACT

There is provided an optically active copper catalyst composition comprising

(a) an optically active salicylideneaminoalcohol

5 represented by the formula (1):



wherein R^1 and R^2 are the same or different, and independently represent a substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group; X^1 and X^2 are the same or different, and independently represent a hydrogen atom, a lower alkoxy group, a nitro group, a lower alkoxycarbonyl group, a cyano group or a halogen atom; and * represents an asymmetric center,

15 provided that both of X^1 and X^2 don't represent hydrogen atoms,

(b) a monovalent or divalent copper compound, and

(c-1) a lithium compound or

(c-2) a compound selected from aluminum compounds having Lewis acidity, titanium compounds having Lewis acidity, boron compounds having Lewis acidity, zirconium compounds having Lewis acidity and hafnium compounds having Lewis

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acidity; and a process for producing an optically active cyclopropane compound by using the same.